GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1291
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Judges of Subordinate Courts
Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sanctioned strength of judges at Subordinate Courts across the country and their vacant posts as on date;
(b) the steps being taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts; and
(c) whether the number of rooms available vis-a-vis the number of judges in the Subordinate Courts across the country are not adequate and if so, the corrective steps being taken thereon?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): The matters relating to sanctioned strength and filling up of the vacancies of judges / judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts fall within the domain of State Governments and the High Courts. The sanctioned strength of Judges / Judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts stood at 21,320 as on 30.06.2016. Out of these 16,383 posts were filled up, leaving 4,937 vacancies. The Central Government has been taking up the matter of filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts with the State Governments and the High Courts from time to time. Supreme Court is monitoring the recruitment of Subordinate Judiciary in the case of Malik Mazhar Sultan & Another versus U.P. Public Service Commission & Others.

The primary responsibility for development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary in the States rests with the State Governments. However, in order to augment the resources of the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary has been in operation since 1993-94. It now covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts.

As per information collected from High Courts as of December 31, 2015, there were 16,513 court halls / court rooms available for District and Subordinate Courts in the country. In addition, 2,447 court halls / court rooms were under construction. Comparing these figures with the working strength of 16,070 judges / judicial officers reported by High Courts as of December, 2015, adequate court rooms / court halls were available for the working strength of judicial manpower. Focus is now to match the availability of court rooms / court halls with the sanctioned strength of judicial officers / judges in District and Subordinate Courts. During the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts held on April 5, 2015, it was resolved that the Chief Justices and the Chief Ministers shall institute a mechanism for regular interaction among themselves to resolve issues, particularly those relating to infrastructure and manpower needs and facilities for the Judiciary.
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